

Bergdoll Gained Freedom By Tale of Buried Gold

(Continued from page one)

Decision from the main purpose of the furlough. Colonel Bailey was to have been a member of the party seeking the treasure, according to the first plans. He was to meet the man at Hagerstown, but on account of being pressed for time, he wrote to Gibboney he could not be there and suggested it was not necessary for him to be a member of the party.

The fact that Colonel Bailey was to meet the motor party at Hagerstown lent color to the report the treasure was buried midway between Cumberland and Hagerstown, in the narrow strip of Maryland territory, formed by the southern boundary of Pennsylvania and the northward bulge of the Potomac River, which separates Maryland and Virginia.

Bergdoll, however, was rather indefinite as to the exact location of the treasure, and insisted he could not give a diagram of the place. It was twenty-five miles from the nearest macadam road," he said, and he asserted he could direct the party to it when he got his bearings.

Bergdoll's home was a violation of the agreement under which he was given the furlough, according to investigators. He was to seek the buried treasure, and remain in this city or visiting his home.

The money which Bergdoll was reported to wish to seek was obtained from the Treasury Department prior to his disappearance when he was drafted, in August, 1917. It is said that James E. Romig, former magistrate and close personal friend of the Bergdoll family, went to Washington and exchanged treasury certificates for the cash.

Attorney Denies Frameup Bergdoll's pursuings became tight. Grover, her favorite son, took some money away and buried it against a "rainy day."

Grover's flight was not the result of a frame-up," declared Gibboney to-day. "I don't care what people say. I reiterate that there was no frame-up in his escape. I never thought he would flee. He did just the thing we did not want him to do."

"It is the truth when I say that he was brought here to sign papers. His signature on them was extremely important."

Gibboney said this before it was established Bergdoll was released on his solicitation to go on the treasure hunt.

"I knew of no positive orders to stay away from the Bergdoll home," he said. "We took the car there because it was in need of repairs, and the home was the logical place to take it. It was dismounted when I was notified of his escape. I thought he fully realized his position as much as I did. He knew the best legal advice was to be consulted and his conviction verdict could be set aside."

"We did not want Bergdoll to run off, because we were confident the judge advocate general in reviewing his court martial sentence would disapprove it and Grover would thereby gain his freedom. I don't know where he is. We have not heard from him. His mother is worried, and last night she sat up for hours. She thinks Grover went off on a lark and will return and surrender."

Mother Has Weak Heart "She has a weak heart," said former Magistrate Romig when attempts were made to question Mrs. Bergdoll. "If you disturb her I am afraid it might kill her. You see, she feels very badly about the case of her son, and last night, after making a study of the stars, said that it would be a lucky day for the Bergdolls."

"She's an expert on this star stuff. When Grover disappeared, she was down at the Twenty-ninth Street property planting flowers. Only last night she said if she planted on a lucky Friday she would have fine flowers, but if she left the planting go until Saturday she would have a crop of weeds."

City detectives working on Bergdoll's disappearance to-day criticized the attitude of Federal officials. Their denials he was away from Fort Jay and their "red tape" in awaiting "official notice" of his escape exasperated the police, who said the government agents were from two and a half to three hours getting on the trail.

Police also contrasted the treatment accorded to Bergdoll with that of other convicted deserters who pass through the city from time to time. They are under armed guards and are handcuffed, even to attend funerals, whereas Bergdoll's guards had only side arms, he was not handcuffed and was permitted to go motor riding, to the theater, and sleep in his own home.

It is evident that Bergdoll's escape was a hit-or-miss venture, according to the police. Ringing of the phone bell, which Bergdoll ostensibly had gone to answer when he escaped, detectives believe, was the signal for the "sneaker" to make the dash.

All U. S. Agencies To Hunt Bergdoll

Baker to Make Searching Inquiry to Fix Full Blame for Escape

From The Tribune's Washington Bureau WASHINGTON, May 22.—All the agencies of the government will be exerted to apprehend Grover Cleveland Bergdoll, draft dodger, who escaped yesterday from military guard at his home in Philadelphia, Secretary of War Baker announced late to-day.

A searching inquiry by the inspector general's department of the army also will be made. Secretary Baker said, to ascertain all details of Bergdoll's escape and to determine responsibility for the act.

Secretary Baker's announcement supplemented two announcements concerning the case issued by the War Department. In one, Samuel T. Ansell, formerly acting judge advocate of the army, who, as one of Bergdoll's counsel, received the consent of the War Department for the prisoner's temporary absence from the Fort Jay military prison to search for the hidden treasure, was called upon to return the deserter at the earliest practicable date.

A long statement, giving their connection with Bergdoll's visit to Philadelphia, was issued by Ansell and Edward S. Bailey, also a former officer in the judge advocate general's department of the army.

Secretary Baker refused to say what agencies of the government would be utilized in the search for Bergdoll. "A complete inquiry will be made," Mr. Baker said, "but obviously just the preliminary steps to be taken cannot be disclosed."

Baker Professes Ignorance The War Secretary professed complete ignorance, not only of Bergdoll's escape, but of the court-martial proceedings in which he was found guilty of evading the draft provisions. He contended that precedents existed for the temporary release of war prisoners on "business" and maintained that Adjutant General Harris, who authorized

him just spoken to, in behalf of Grover Cleveland Bergdoll, together with a brief statement of the reasons therefor.

Plea for Prison Furlough "This man, in virtue of his conviction and sentence as a so-called 'draft deserter,' is now imprisoned at Fort Jay, pending the review of his trial by the War Department. I am his attorney. His home counsel in Philadelphia is Mr. D. C. Gibboney, of unexcelled repute as a man and lawyer. Of counsel also, in a consulting capacity, is Judge Westcott, of New Jersey, whom doubtless the Secretary well knows. These gentlemen visited me last Friday and related to me a situation which we believe to be true and which impels us to submit this request.

"This young man was reared fatherless, under family conditions, which, even when partly revealed, throw considerable light upon conduct of his that, to say the least, is strange if not unintelligent. From his father he inherited wealth. Apprehending the family desire to control his share, he at times has openly submitted and at others has become secretive of his wealth. This latter, perhaps, is the most influential of the many complex motives for his action in the instance I now speak of.

"In any event, it is now known that he did secrete one large sum of money which was recovered a year or so ago. He now declares that he also hid a second large sum, the remainder of his fortune (\$150,000), in a lonely spot on a mountainside, distant about a day's journey from this city; that he placed the gold coin in a metallic container and took it with himself, unaccompanied, and hid it in a spot which he alone can identify. Circumstances indicated the truth of his statement.

"He is now wrought up with fear and anxiety lest he may never recover the money, and accordingly earnestly asks and other counsel joining him, to endeavor to arrange it that he may go, under guard and with his counsel, to recover the money and place it in safekeeping at the residence of his home.

"We are requesting no privilege—only the necessary liberty of action, under guard. This prisoner has no desire to escape, nor could he if he wanted to. Notwithstanding the guard, as his counsel I stand responsible for his prompt return to prison, without advantage to him other than involved in the object of his request.

"I hope this request may be granted immediately. It seems reasonable and right to me, and also to you, and I hope and doubt not that it will seem so to the Secretary."

The Ansell-Bailey statement further said: "We heard nothing about the matter after the arrangement was made until Friday afternoon, May 21, 1920, when General Ansell was called over the telephone by Mr. Gibboney who said that he was fearful that Bergdoll had escaped. The circumstances as related to us over the telephone seemed confused. We advised Mr. Gibboney to notify the police immediately, take such step as he could to apprehend Bergdoll and to direct the guard immediately to notify the commandant of the prison at Governor's Island. We went at once and notified the Adjutant General of the army.

"We know nothing of what happened at Philadelphia nor of the circumstances of the escape other than what is contained in the press reports and brief conversations over the telephone with Mr. Gibboney. We, of course, shall do everything within our power to see that Bergdoll is apprehended."

Bergdoll Clew Reported By Woman in Hartford Saw Fugitive Sitting in Hotel Waiting Room; She Phones Police; Describes Cap and Coat

Special Dispatch to The Tribune HARTFORD, Conn., May 22.—Grover Cleveland Bergdoll, who fled from his

army guards in Philadelphia yesterday, may be in this vicinity. A woman telephoned to Police Headquarters to-day that she believed Bergdoll was in the waiting room of a local hotel. She said she had recognized him from the pictures which were published in newspapers during Bergdoll's court martial. The woman refused to give her name. She described the man she thought to be Bergdoll as wearing a light colored cap and a heavy green driving coat.

When detectives arrived at the hotel they found no one answering the description. Hartford is only about ten hours from Philadelphia by automobile.

Bergdoll Made Up Story, Says Hunt Prison Commandant Calls Quest for \$150,000 Gold Hatched-Up Tale

Major Henry D. Hunt, commandant of Fort Jay, Governor's Island, where Grover Cleveland Bergdoll had been shuffling laundry since his conviction, yesterday was inclined to view with doubt the fugitive's tale of \$150,000 buried in the red clay hills of Maryland, on which he obtained a leave from Castle William.

"It now looks somewhat like a hatched-up story," said Major Hunt, "but we will know all the facts after an investigation has been made."

When the draft dodger boarded the ferry for the Battery Friday morning, escorted by two non-commissioned officers, it was understood that his mission was to be accomplished with all possible dispatch. He was to be given time to dig up the buried fortune and hustle it to a Philadelphia bank, and then return. A visit by Bergdoll to his Philadelphia home was not authorized or expected, according to Major Hunt.

Sergeant O'Hare and Sergeant York, the two non-commissioned officers who accompanied Bergdoll to Philadelphia, returned to Governor's Island yesterday.

"I've talked to the sergeants," said Major Hunt, "and the whole affair will be investigated thoroughly. If there is any one to blame we shall know it."

Squads of soldiers left Governor's Island yesterday to assist in the search. Bergdoll was about to be sent to Leavenworth penitentiary when he suddenly decided that the time was ripe to go in quest of the buried treasure. Castle William originally had been designated by Major General Bullard, commander of the Department of the East, as the place for the deserter to serve his five-year sentence.

In the event that his latest pilgrimage is interrupted by his capture, it is likely that he will be brought first to Governor's Island and then sent to Leavenworth to serve his five years and take whatever additional punishment is imposed.

Bergdoll doped up a bit before leaving Governor's Island yesterday. When he was officially registered as a general prisoner his clothes consisted of the regulation prison uniform. But at the time of his escape he was wearing olive drab.

In its stories concerning the Army-like movements of young Bergdoll "The Newark Star-Eagle" has been careful to eliminate the name "Grover Cleveland" from the name "Bergdoll." He is referred to as "G. Bergdoll," with this explanation: "The Star-Eagle does not use the given name of this slacker because it was borne honorably by a native of Essex County, who received the greatest honor that the American people have to bestow."

Check Fraud Laid To Woman Welfare Worker in Newark

Mrs. Betty Lee, Who Said She Sought to Erect Home for Girls, Is Arrested; Several Complaints Made

Mrs. Betty Lee, who was actively engaged for several weeks in Newark in arousing interest in a project to erect a home for girls, was arrested yesterday in Trenton. She was brought to Newark, where a warrant had been issued for her arrest on a charge of obtaining money on false representations. C. Wenham Smith, whose son-in-law, Thomas Ford, is Newark's Police Commissioner, obtained the warrant.

He said that he gave two checks to Mrs. Lee for \$244 each to get reservations for a European voyage, Mrs. Lee having told him that she had influential friends and could obtain the reservations without difficulty. It is alleged by the police that Mrs. Lee's departure from Newark followed closely on the issuance of the warrant.

The police declare also that Mrs. Lee had cashed several checks in the city which had been returned for lack of funds. They say that in presenting the checks she would give as reference the name of some influential citizen whose acquaintance she had made in her canvass of the city in behalf of the girls' home enterprise.

Two Broad Street department stores where Mrs. Lee had cashed checks, one for \$150 and one for \$300, informed the police that the Capital National Bank of Sacramento, on which the checks were drawn, had notified them by telegraph that Betty Lee was not known there. Mrs. Lee's departure from Newark followed closely on the issuance of the warrant.

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in boosting the plan for a girls' home, for which it was understood \$700,000 worth of stock was to be sold, Mrs. Lee had called not only upon the wealthy and influential, but also had

Hungary to Sign June 4

PARIS, May 22.—The peace treaty with Hungary, it was decided by the Council of Ambassadors to-day, will be signed in the Grand Trianon Palace at Versailles on June 4.

The Hungarian delegates presented to the council three notes, the first of which announced the resignation of Count Apponyi as president of the delegation, and the second notifying the council of the appointment of Ivan Prasnowski to succeed him. The third told of Hungary's decision to sign the treaty and intention of naming delegates for that purpose.

The council decided that in the absence of Count Apponyi it was fitting that Hungary send a member of the government or a person conspicuous in Hungary's public life, who might be considered as representative of the country, to sign the treaty.

Henry Street School "Grads" Hold "Old Guard" Luncheon

One hundred and twenty-five graduates of Public School No. 2, 116 Henry Street, gathered yesterday at an "Old Guard" luncheon in the Hotel Astor. Speakers included Thomas W. Church, former president of the Board of Education, who presided; William L. Ettinger, superintendent of schools, a graduate of Public School No. 2 and an old principal of the school; F. H. La Guardia, President of the Board of Aldermen; George Henry Payne, and E. A. G. Phillips, the present principal.

Failed to Have Pay Roll; Robber Gets Only \$12

When Abraham Kaufman, treasurer of M. Geller's dyeing establishment at 214 East Twenty-second Street, entered his office Saturday morning, he generally is carrying a payroll of \$1,800. Yesterday, as he put his hand on the door knob, a man leveled a revolver at him.

Employees of the firm had been laid off a few days ago, however, and all the robber got was \$7 in currency and a \$5 check. Kaufman followed him to the street yelling for the police, and Lawrence A. Kilroy, of 8 Bethune Street, who was found hiding in the basement of the Church of the Epiphany, in East Twenty-third Street, was locked up in the East Twenty-second Street police station as the robber.

Roy Sullivan and his wife, Ella, of 8

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Would Retain N. Y. Canals General Hines Holds U. S. Control Is Still Needed

WASHINGTON, May 22.—Immediate relinquishment of operation of the New York State Barge Canal by the War Department would be unwise, Brigadier General Hines, chief of transportation, said to-day before a House committee. "Full use of the equipment in moving wheat from Buffalo to seaboard and for planned" he said, "as railroads about the canal are only operating at 30 per cent efficiency." No opposition was offered by General Hines to restoring the canal to state operation.

The first month of War Department operation of the canal showed a "masterful cut" in the loss experienced from operation under the railroad administration last year, General Hines said.

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